FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 AUGUST 1986

Lebanon

Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi joined the call for the rearrest of a female suspect in the recent series of Beirut car bombings, accusing the Lebanese Forces of threatening the arresting officer and his family to obtain the woman's release, Beirut radio reported.

In other security developments, between 700 and 900 Syrian soldiers entered West Beirut and the southern suburb to take over new duties, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon's security sources, who added that some members of the force may move to the Sidon area. The same radio asserted that during the past few days between 2,500 and 3,000 Amal Movement fighters moved from West Beirut and the southern suburb to the Sidon area in preparation for expected armed confrontations with Palestinians in Sidon and Tyre. Elsewhere, a military spokesman cited by Beirut radio stated that Israeli gunboats shelled a checkpoint at Khaldah held jointly by Syrian observers and the Progressive Socialist Party.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will travel to Cameroon 25 August, according to Jerusalem radio, which added that the renewal of bilateral relations will be announced during the visit. Elsewhere, a Moroccan Information Ministry statement reported by MAP announced that no contact or cooperation between the two countries has taken place since the Ifrane meeting.

Sudan

In a Khartoum press conference reported by SUNA, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated that the issue of security and transportation in the south will be dealt with by a decisive confrontation, rather than by the waiting that has encouraged the SPLA to "terrify" citizens. The prime minister rebutted the SPLA's accusation of Sudanese collaboration with Libya in the use of food relief flights for the transport of military supplies. On the Libyan presence in western Sudan, Al-Mahdi said that Libyan troops once present there have returned home. The prime minister announced that the May 1983 shari'ah laws will be repealed "within the next 10 days," and that religious belief will no longer be a consideration in who is appointed to public office.

Meanwhile, the SPLA leadership termed the Sudanese Government decision to break off talks as "absurd" and against the interest of the Sudanese people, while a commentary broadcast by the same radio stressed that the SPLA will adhere to the letter and spirit of the Koka Dam declaration in the search for peace.

An article in the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Ra'y Al-'Amm* contended that a "surprise visit" to Cairo 19 August by an SPLA delegation was rebuffed by the Egyptian leadership. In a telephone conversation between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and chairman of the Sudanese Council of State Ahmad al-Mirghani, during which the delegation remained under guard at Cairo airport, Al-Mirghani appealed to Mubarak not to have any contact with the delegation, the newspaper continued. Mubarak urged restraint, but Al-Mirghani replied that the recent plane downing had put an end to Sudanese tolerance toward the rebels, according to the newspaper, which added that the delegation departed after leaving a letter for Mubarak.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes raided a power station near Ahvaz 21 August, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

Elsewhere, the Rio de Janeiro magazine *Veja* reported that the Iraqi Army complained to the Brazilian Aerospace Industry, attributing some losses in battle to the poor performance of a missile manufactured in Brazil.

Iran-USSR-OPEC

Discussing his recent talks in Moscow, the oil minister said the Soviet Union is prepared to coordinate fully with OPEC members in implementing the cartel's recent decisions, IRNA reported. The minister said the USSR has announced its readiness to cut oil exports to Western Europe by 100,000 bbl/day, the agency continued.

Jordan-PLO

An article in the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* cited by WAM reported that some PLO offices in Jordan will be reopened, following a meeting held 21 August in Amman between PLO Executive Committee representative 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and a senior Jordanian security official.

Tunisia

Former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali is being held under "limited house arrest" in Tunis, according to JANA, which cited a Kuwait *Al-Qabas* article claiming that Tunisian security authorities prevented Mzali from leaving the country 20 August.

The Yemens

A Cairo *Al-Akhbar* article cited by MENA reported the presence of troop concentrations along the YAR-PDRY border. The tension was caused when a brigade from the PDRY Armed Forces was deployed in the area in response to the establishment by the YAR of a camp having 10,000 tribesmen loyal to former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the newspaper continued.

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Najibullah Message to Gandhi Praises Ties

LD210644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 20, *Bakhtar* — Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, has communicated to New Delhi a congratulatory message to Rajiv Gandhi, premier of the Republic of India, on the occasion of the establishment of Afghan-Indian Friendship Society.

Najibullah has expressed happiness of the ever-increasing development and consolidation of the friendly relations and cooperation existing among the governments and the peoples of the DRA and the Republic of India.

General secretary of the PDPA CC in his message regarded the establishment of the Afghan-Indian Friendship Society as another important step for the expansion of the relations in the interest of the peoples of the two countries, and ensuring of peace and security in the region and the world.

The message expresses best wishes for the ever-greater prosperity of the Indian people.

Soviet Group Attends National Celebrations

Keshtmand, USSR General Address Banquet

LD211357 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 20, *Bakhtar* — Sixty-seven years ago, freedom-loving Afghans in a united front representing all tribes and nationalities of the country rose against the colonial forces of British imperialism which resulted in putting an end to the British colonial domination.

This was said by Soltan 'Ali Kestmand, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, in his speech delivered at a banquet held on the occasion of the 67th celebration anniversary of the regaining of independence of Afghanistan.

The Afghan people, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand continued to say, from the very beginning of their just struggle relied on the young Soviet Republic under the leadership of the great Lenin, the real friend of the Afghan people as well as the Muslims of the east.

The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia inspired the Afghan freedom-loving people. The material assistance and moral support of our great historical neighbour consolidated the foundation of the independence of Afghanistan, he said.

After the victory of the April Revolution of 1978, the independence of Afghanistan acquired a new content. The Afghan friendship with the Soviet Union was enriched and converted into a real fraternal and internationalist revolutionary solidarity, S.A. Keshtmand added.

Today, he went on to say, the imperialist undeclared war is continuing against the DRA. Imperialism and regional reaction with the help of traitors and bandits are striving to topple down our young republic and to trample the gains of the April Revolution. The People's Army of the DRA are heroically struggling against the enemies of revolution and freedom and they possessed militant spirit.

We are optimistic to our future, because the sacrifices of people of the country are not in vain. The basic factor of freedom and independence of Afghanistan are inherent in the unshakeable friendship and militant unity existing between the people's and the Armed Forces of the DRA and those of Soviet Union and other socialist countries, stressed the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

The government of the DRA, like other progressive forces of the world, firmly supports the new declaration of the USSR put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the extension of the time of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, he added.

This new step of the USSR has clearly shown to the world public the advocates of peace and its enemies. The people of the world have since long ago become convinced that socialism means peace and imperialism means war, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand pointed out.

General Ivan Tretyak, deputy defence minister of the USSR [title as received], in his speech at the banquet stated that the Armed Forces of the revolutionary Afghanistan, under the present day complicated situation in which imperialism and reaction continue their armed interferences in the internal affairs of the DRA, are carrying out their great duty in defending the revolution.

He stressed that we have witnessed that the PDPA Central Committee are adopting concrete and important measures for the promotion of militant capability of the Armed Forces as well as for stopping bloodshed and preservation of peace and security in the country.

The Soviet Union and all fraternal socialist countries firmly support the righteous struggle of the Afghan people against counter-revolution, the deputy defence minister of the USSR remarked.

Delegation Departs 21 Aug

LD211857 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] The military delegation of the friendly USSR, headed by General Ivan M. Tretyak, USSR deputy defense minister, [title as heard] who had come to participate in the ceremony marking the 67th anniversary of the restoration of the country's independence and DRA Army Day, departed for his country this morning.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul airport by Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, PDPA Central Committee Politburo candidate member and DRA defense minister, and some members of the defense ministry leadership.

Armed Forces Pledge Struggle for Revolution's Goals

LD200654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 18, *Bakhtar* — As a result of the indefatigable efforts of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the state of the DRA, the gratis aids of the USSR and other socialist countries, the Armed Forces of the country have been changed into a new type of armed forces. This is said in the message of the Armed Forces of the DRA addressed to the PDPA CC on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of the country.

In order to realise the resolutions of the Central Committee of the PDPA and state of the DRA, the personnel of the Armed Forces are acquiring higher results in the field of combat training and combat operations, the message says.

On the basis of the ideologies of the April Revolution, the personnel of the Armed Forces are carrying out their military tasks with higher sentiments, consciousness, and responsibility for the destiny of the country and its independence, the message adds.

The message expresses the pledge of the Armed Forces of the DRA to the leadership of the country that it will close its ranks around the party and it will devotedly struggle for the realisation of the aspirations of the April Revolution.

PDPA Politburo 'Releases' Two Officials

LD212134 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] The periodic PDPA Central Committee Politburo session has been held [date not specified]. It was decided during the session that the second congress of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] will be held in the second half of the 1365 [began 21 March 1986]. The Politburo recommended to the NFF Central Council and to the social and creator [as heard] organizations to transform the preparation process and the convocation of the Second NFF Congress into an important event aimed at implementing the decisions of the 16th and 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenums, intensifying work and activities to find ways of national reconcialiation, consolidating the Armed Forces, extending cooperation with religious and other organizations, and extending state power in the localities. The Politburo approved a resolution in this regard.

Measures to improve the organization of trade within the country also were assessed at the Politburo session. The Politburo drew the attention of leading Commerce Ministry members to their failure in implementing the necessary measures to carry out the party and state decisions regarding issues related to improving commercial services for the country's people. After critically assessing the process of organizing foreign and home trade, and solving the peoples' needs with regard to food and other consumer goods, the Politburo instructed the Commerce Ministry to draft a complex (?of measures) in order to remove the existing deficiencies, for speedily improving foreign and home trade organizations, and for providing primary goods to the cities and villages, and first of all, to the workers, peasants, tradesmen, and theologians. The ministry must put the plan into practice during the years 1365-1366.

The Ministry of Commerce also was entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring necessary order in distributing, (?protecting), and transporting the goods to the localities, especially those goods provided via aid from the friendly and fraternal country, the Soviet Union. The ministry also must establish a desirable order in the work and activities of the Chamber of Commerce, import and export unions, and expedite the distribution of trade licences to businessmen. It must [words indistinct] the border trade and must have a plan for the distribution of bread, meat, sugar, and animal and vegetable oil, and other oils. Tasks were given to responsible officials in this regard to carry out uncompromising combat against any type of violation and misuse. The embezzlers, the tramps of people's interest, smugglers, and their supporters must be taken to court. The Politburo approved a resolution in this regard.

The issue of completing the planning and arrangement of the annual plans of the provinces' socioeconomic growth also were assessed during the session. It was decided that the planning commission must commence functioning within the framework of the executive committees of the councils of people's representatives in the provinces for the DRA economy's restructuring and speedy growth, for the further complete utilization of the advantages of the planning system, and for making better conditions available for the effective use of local sources, work forces, energy, water, and raw material.

In order to expand the party's ties to the people, listening to their criticism, proposals, and complaints, and solving their problems and difficulties, the Politburo decided that the DRA party and state leadership must organize themselves according to an orderly chart to receive people in Delkoshah Palace, and must take practical measures to meet their needs and to solve their demands urgently. The Politburo entrusted leading party and state members with establishing live and close contact with the people by receiving them daily. They must prevent any type of injustice, bureaucracy, and obstacle against the people, and must give a revolutionary and decisive response to the people's expectations of the PDPA which is their true servant party.

The recent announcement by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until 1 January 1987 was hailed by the Politburo as a manifestation of efficient policy and [words indistinct] of the Soviet Union leadership's feeling of responsibility with regard to peace and the peoples' security, and as continuation of the creative policy of the 27th CPSU Congress. It also was a result of a sound understanding of present facts and a great historical responsibility for mankind's destiny. The Politburo pointed out that Comrade Gorbachev's recent announcement to continue the Soviet Union's practical and constructive proposals constitutes a real ground for achieving international peace, halting the arms race, and preventing its spread into outer space, and completely eliminating nuclear weapons.

It was decided to release Comrades Abdurrahim Peshrow, Jowzjan PDPA Provincial Committee secretary and 'Aziz Ahmad,

Kabul PDPA Provincial Committee secretary from their duties in connection with their serious weakness in party work.

A number of other foreign and domestic issues also were assessed during the Politburo session.

People Welcome Soviet Nuclear Test Moratorium

LD220615 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 21, *Bakhtar* — A political observer of *Bakhtar*writes:

The recent statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, concerning the decision of the government of the Soviet Union to extend the term of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions to January 1, 1987,was given a rousing welcome by the people of the world.

The state figures, the leaders of the political parties, and social organisations of the world, including the Western countries, have confirmed that the Soviet Union has approached with goodwill and a deep sense of responsibility with the fate of the mankind. They believe that the Soviet Union proved their loyalty for the observation of all international convenants for the prevention of arms race and achieving universal disarmament. This is the Soviet Union which has announced for the third time a unilateral moratorium on banning nuclear tests.

The USSR is continuing to refrain from tests although the United States, which had the lead in the number of explosions for 40 years, detonated during the year-long Soviet moratorium another 18 nuclear devices, three of which have not been declared.

The people of the world know that Washington administration did not respond positively to the Soviet proposals of January 15, 1986 on the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and other proposals tabled by the USSR and its allies at the Geneva talks. Contrary to it, the US Administration apart from nuclear tests, implementation of star wars [words indistinct] the vast production of chemical weapons, declared the non-observnace of the SALT 2 agreement.

The peace-loving people of Afghanistan are warmly welcoming this peaceful initiative of the Soviet Union and regard it as another honest step towards the world peace, achieving of disarmament and saving the world from atomic catastrophe.

Schools Rebuilt; 70 Percent Enrollment Sought

LD220620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 21, *Bakhtar* — Over three hundred primary schools will be built in the country during the first five year socio-economic development plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, 1986-1991.

A representative of the Ministry of Education of the DRA told to a *Bakhtar* reporter that, 1831 schools have been demolished throughout the country by the counterrevolutionary bandits since the victory of the April Revolution of 1978. Four hundred schools destroyed by the bandits have been reconstructed by the state of the DRA, and functioning.

The government of the DRA has spent 490 million afghanis for the construction of new schools and reconstruction of the old ones.

According to the policy of the revolutionary government of the DRA in education, as well as ensuring balanced education in frontier provinces, about 70 per cent of children of the provinces will be enrolled in schools. The sons of the inhabitants of these provinces were deprived from the right of education during the past anti-people regime.

Security Forces Capture Rebels in Ghowr Province

LD201827 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] *Bakhtar* reports that a number of rebels belonging to the criminal band of Gulbuddin, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the people in Ghalmin village near the provincial capital of Ghowr Province, were crushed yesterday as a result of a successful operation by the country's security forces, and another 27 of these murderers with their leader, Amir Muhammad, son of Wali Muhammad, were captured.

A large quantity of weapons, including Markovs and Kalashnikovs, missiles, and U.S.-made mines, were seized by the security forces. Also two arms and equipment caches, and food depots belonging to them were destroyed.

Nine 'Intruders' Killed on Pakistan Border

NC212018 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — Indian border troops shot and killed nine Pakistani intruders, and arrested three Thursday along the border in the northern state of Punjab and neighbouring Rajasthan, official reports said here.

Six of them were killed in Punjab's border areas of Ferozepore, Fatehpur, Khem Karan, and Bhikkiwind, according to a spokesman for the Border Security Force, a paramilitary unit responsible for security on India's borders.

Three others, suspected to be Sikh separatists, were arrested after crossing over the border, the spokesman said, but did not identify them for "reasons of security."

He said the three were sought in the killings of several Hindus in the state, where Sikh militants are campaigning for an independent homeland.

Three Pakistanis were shot dead early Thursday in a gun battle with Indian security forces on the border in Rajasthan's Anupgarh area, the BSF spokesman said.

Further Reportage on Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister

Expansion of Economic Cooperation

BK211615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] India and Iran have agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil, food, steel, and other economic sectors. The agreed minutes of the talks held by the visiting Iranian foreign minister, Mr Velayati, with the Indian leaders were signed in New Delhi today. The talks covered issues relating to the forthcoming nonaligned summit at Harare, and the implementation of the decisions of the last India-Iranian Joint Commission meeting.

The two sides agreed that there are good prospects of industrial collaboration and cooperation between them, particularly in the fields of power, steel, transport, telecommunications, and railways.

Meets With Human Resources Minister

LD211909 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, who is heading a high-ranking delegation on a visit to New Delhi, today met and conferred with Narasimha Rao, minister of human resources of India. In this meeting, which was also attended by the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to India as well as members of the accompanying delegation and a party of Indian officials, the two sides discussed Third World economic issues and other issues related to the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement sessions which will be convened in Harare.

Mr. Narasimha Rao, in this meeting, in which bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed, while agreeing with the opinions of our country's foreign minister, called for the expansion of these relations and in conclusion expressed the hope that he will be able to visit Iran.

Meets With Gandhi; Departs

BK220904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, today called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi. He is understood to have discussed with Mr Gandhi matters concerning the two countries and the forthcoming nonaligned summit at Harare. Mr Velayati also called on the vice president, Mr Venkataraman.

He has since left New Delhi for home.

Mizoram Ministry Headed by Laldenga Sworn In

BK211529 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1510 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] In Mizoram, a 9-member Congress-I-MNF [Mizoram National Front] coalition ministry headed by Laldenga was sworn in the morning of August 21 at Aizawl. Outgoing Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla will be deputy chief minister in the new ministry.

Lt Governor H.S. Dubey administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers — all of whom are cabinet ministers.

Of the nine members sworn in, five belonged to Congress-I and four to the Mizo National Front. MNF members are Laldenga, Zoramthanga, Rualchhina, and Tawnluia. Congress-I ministers are Lal Thanhawla, Sainghana, C.L. Ruala, R. Thanglna, and Vaivenga.

Education Minister Rokmtva and two ministers of state, Lansauma and Hiphei, have been dropped as the assembly was not dissolved. Dr H. Thansanga will remain speaker and K. Sangchhum deputy speaker of the assembly.

Further Reportage on Situation in Gujarat State

Police Shoot 4 in Baroda

BK211607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] In Gujarat, one person was killed and three injured in the police firing in Baroda this afternoon. Police reportedly resorted to firing when they were attacked by a crowd armed with acid bulbs during the curfew relaxation for women in the Wadi police station area.

STATESMAN on Proposed Sri Lanka Accord

BK211711 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Aug 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Not as Guarantor"]

[Text] President Jayewardene's suggestion that India and Sri Lanka should sign an accord committing themselves to implementing any peace accord with the Tamils, holding elections to the provincial councils, and to action against terrorism would be a diplomatic innovation not deserving of serious consideration. On the face of it, the Sri Lankan president's plea may appear to be reasonable enough: since New Delhi has taken an active interest in persuading Colombo to concede the "reasonable demands" of the Tamil minority, it should also accept the responsibility of underwriting an agreement. But this is deliberately to misrepresent India's mediatory role in a bitter ethnic conflict; it also looks like a surprising invitation to explicit outside interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs. India has in the past deplored the proposal of the Sri Lankan minister for internal security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, for a Commonwealth initiative, and has also denied taking any step for the stationing of a U.N. peace-keeping force in Sri Lanka. In fact, New Delhi's reluctant involvement in the problem arose out of the fear that it might otherwise assume an international dimension; this was further underscored when the Indian high commissioner recently reaffirmed this country's support for Colombo's current attempt to arrive at a negotiated settlement. But the offer of "good offices" to promote a dialogue cannot be equated with the role of guarantor. Nor can justified concern over the burden of Tamil refugees lead to a more active interest which would, in effect, allow President Jayewardene to hold New Delhi responsible for the good behavior of the militants and the success or failure of his own domestic experiment in devolution.

In fact, the Sri Lankan president is searching for a scapegoat who can be blamed if things go wrong. Faced with growing Sinhalese opposition to the devolution package and the refusal of the Tamil guerrillas to consider a negotiated settlement, he has come up with a proposal that cannot but cause misunderstanding between New Delhi and Colombo. While President Jayewardene may yet sell his peace package to the Sinhalese, he is in no position to influence the Tamil militants — particularly the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam] — who can effectively sabotage any accord with the moderate TULF. In fact, it appears extremely unlikely that the militants will be a part of any settlement at all despite President Jayewardene's renewed promise of a general amnesty "to enable them to contest the elections". The most India can offer is to try and pressure the militants into participating in the negotiations, but checking the insurgency is quite another matter. If India refuses sanctuary to Tamils who are involved in the armed struggle, the problem of "terrorism" might be confined to Sri Lanka, but such action will not necesarily end hostilities. On the contrary, the Colombo authorities might have a full-scale civil war on their hands. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the ethnic crisis is an internal problem for Sri Lanka, and though India can help President Jayewardene to exercise certain unpleasant options, this would be better achieved through diplomacy and mutual understanding than through a formal accord which allows scope for recrimination and cannot, in any case, be enforced without some form of intervention.

PATRIOT Criticizes SARC Proposal on Terrorism

BK211704 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Aug 86 p 4

[Editorial: "SAARC and Terrorism"]

[Text] It is not clear what purpose will be served by the proposed exercises by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) [SARC] to discuss coordinated tackling of the problem of "terrorism" in the region. How far can the foreign secretaries and foreign ministers of the member-countries really go in arriving at a common definition of the threat they are supposed to meet together? Not very, if an honest answer were to be attempted. It is not for no reason that the planned meetings of these dignitaries inspire little optimism about their outcome — and are indeed expected to achieve nothing more than an opportunity for some of the participants to play a political game entirely in contravention of the agreed norms for SAARC functioning.

Not the least of the reasons is the fact that at least one major instance of terrorism aimed at India's unity and integrity is known to have been promoted and patronised by one of the participants in these exercises. That the "Khalistani" extremism is a problem that would have never acquired its present dimensions without the friendly rear provided by Ziaul Haq's Pakistan is a point that needs no more to be argued at length. The other reason is the attempt by another member-country to take utterly unconscionable advantage of the issue, against this country again. At the last ministerial-level conference of the organisation, Sri Lanka had sought a regional convention on "terrorism" with extradition obligation — obviously with an eye on the members of the island's Tamil minority who had fled to an Indian refuge under persecution of outrageous and internationally denounced proportions. The proposal was not made any the less suspicious by the fact that the J.R. Jayewardene regime has all along made insidious efforts to equate the human rights issue, on which it is squarely in the dock, with the problem posed for India by anti-national criminals thriving primarily on external support — and that it has openly proclaimed alliance with Islamabad in the situation arising from the Sri Lankan conflict.

All this, evidently, does not augur well for a resolution of the issue that the SAARC is being forced to take up. Politicisation of the question, while it can achieve little beyond its further obfuscation, can only restrict even the scope for cooperation in economic and other fields that India considers the SAARC to be still capable of providing.

Libya, U.S. Criticized For 'Unjustified Interference'

BK211559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said today that the acting foreign secretary summoned the Libyan and U.S. ambassadors and apprised them of Pakistani Government's concern and grief over the statements by the governments of their countries about Pakistan's internal situation. The ambassadors of these countries were told that the statements are totally dismissible and are tantamount to unjustified interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and contrary to internationally recognized norms of relations between countries.

Referring to a recent statement by Indian minister of state for external affairs at the Rajya Sabha alleging that Pakistan was delaying the convening of two of the four subcommissions [between Pakistan and India], the spokesman said the fact is that the Pakistani Government already informed the Indian Government some time ago that it was ready for the meetings of subcommission one and two. These subcommissions deal with trade, industry, and communications, apart from other fields. The Indian Government was asked to propose dates for these meetings, but despite repeated reminders, no reply was sent from the Indian side.

Further Reportage on Opposition Situation in Sind

Amnesty International Requests Bhutto Release

BK220314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Amnesty International has appealed to the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo, to release Miss Benazir Bhutto and other opposition leaders unconditionally. The London-based human rights organization has expressed concern over the mass arrests in Pakistan since the 13th of this month. In a message it urged the Junejo government to uphold the rights of freedom of opinion, peaceful assembly and association which were restored when martial law was lifted on 30 December.

The Amnesty International appeal came amid reports that the Pakistan federal cabinet had decided to keep the opposition leaders in prison till the law and order situation in the country normalizes.

The Junejo government also rejected the suggestion for a dialogue with the political parties under the prevailing circumstances. Meanwhile, the opposition parties planned more demonstrations in central Punjab.

Sind Government To Complete Term

BK220348 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that the present elected government is determined to promote democracy in the country but it will not allow the politics of disorder to succeed. Speaking to national and provincial assembly members, local councillors, and a group of elites in Dadu he said the present government is directely elected by the people and it has the right to complete the prescribed tenure of 5 years. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that people from almost all walks of life have condemned the incidents of political unrest in the province. He congratulated those who foiled the aims of the saboteurs.

Addressing an open court in Nauria village under Khaipur Taluk yesterday evening, he announced a grant of more than 300,000 [rupees] for the rehabilitation of the people affected by (?flood). He also announced an additional grant of 250,000 rupees to set right their huts and the locality.

Karachi, Hyderabad Situation 'Normal'

BK211531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] An official spokesman said in Karachi this evening that situation in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions remained normal today. The spokesman said that no untoward incident occurred anywhere. There has been widespread condemnation by the people of the lawbreaking activities started by some miscreants in Sind Province. The people particularly condemned the attacks on welfare organizations and installations.

Train Services Restored

BK220412 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] There were no untoward incidents anywhere in Sind yesterday. Citing the reports from various district headquarters *Associated Press of Pakistan* has said that commercial, business activities in the province went on normally without any hindrance.

Pakistan Railway Administration in Lahore yesterday noted that railway traffic has resumed almost to normal and there is no hindrance in its movement and that strict security measures have been taken to ensure the punctual movement of trains.

Petition Against President as Army Chief Dismissed

BK200156 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Text] A full bench of the Sind High Court held today that the high court did not have territorial jurisdiction to hear the constitutional petition which sought to challenge the holding of the post of chief of Army staff by the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The full bench comprised the chief justice, Mr Justice Moinuddin, Mr Justice Abdul Qadir Chowdhury, Mr Justice Zahural Haq, Mr Justice Ali Madad Shah, and Mr Justice Syed Haider Ali Pirzada.

The judgment of the full bench was announced after hearing the counsel for the petitioners — Mr Muzaffarul Haq and Mr Abdul Ghaffar Lakhani — and Mr Aziz Munshi, attorney general of Pakistan, who appeared in response to court notice. However, with regard to question of bar jurisdiction of the high court under

Article 199 (3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, the majority view of the full bench was that since the petition sought to challenge the holding of the post of chief of Army staff at Rawalpindi, the high court has no jurisdiction to entertain the petition in view of the bar contained in Article 199 (3).

Afghan Mujahidin Shoot Down Soviet Helicopter

BK220525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have launched several successful operations in various parts of the country. The mujahidin shot down a low-flying Soviet military helicopter in Panjwali, a subdivision of Qandahar. Four of the helicopter's crew were killed.

The mujahidin attacked a military institute in Qandahar on 8 August, killing at least six soldiers and injuring many.

According to the reports, in Paktia Province on 17 August [words indistinct].

In a major operation, the mujahidin inflicted heavy caualties to Soviet-Kabul forces in Ghowr Province. The Soviet news agency *TASS* also reported this operation but did not refer to the Soviet-Kabul losses.

Western diplomatic sources say that the Afghan mujahidin repulsed a major Soviet-Kabul offensive in the Logar area, south of Kabul, two days ago.

THE MUSLIM on U.S Assistance to Afghan Mujahidin

BK211637 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Aug 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Afghan Mujahidin and America"]

[Text] At a recent news conference in Peshawar, one of the major leaders of the Afghan mujahidin, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has strongly criticised the visit by four of his colleagues to Washington. Labelling the leaders call on President Ronald Reagan at the White House as a "political blunder due to its damaging fallout", he underlined his group's commitment to prevent Afghanistan from becoming an arena of superpower confrontation. He also emphasised that the Afghanistan mujahidin did not need American support in their struggle against the Soviet army. This assertion of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar is a welcome eye-opener to those who have been willing to serve as surrogates for American anti-Sovietism in the region.

The American support is tactical (so long as they do not reach an understanding with the Soviets somewhere else), and selective as well, because the U.S. is concerned about radicalising influences of Islam in other parts of the Muslim World. The United States, which has brazenly attacked a small state (Libya) and is opposed to the Muslim mujahidin of Lebanon cannot be sincere in its professions of support to the Afghan mujahidin, despite the bleeding heart rhetoric which is regularly churned out by its propagandists from Washington. If the Soviet Union has now realised that its military intervention in Afghanistan has been a failure and a political blunder as well, it is a tribute to the Afghan peoples' resolute will to assert their dignity and self-respect.

The more the mujahidin rely on external props in their struggle the less credible will it be in the eyes of international opinion. Already, the CIA is reportedly supplying nearly 500 million dollars worth of arms and ammunition to various mujahidin groups via Pakistan. Obviously, the "gang of four", which went to Washington, is clamouring for more. Such dependency is dangerous both for the mujahidin as well as for Pakistan which is their principal area of refuge. By being "wired" to Washington, the mujahidin's support life-line can easily be choked off by the U.S. should its interests demand a switch off policy. This has happened in the past as was the case with the Iraqi Kurds in 1975. For Pakistan which is bearing the brunt on account of the refugees as well as the fighting on its border areas, it would be important that our leverage on this issue is not lessened, particularly on key military and diplomatic matters. Let the mujahidin be genuinely non-aligned rather than allow themselves to be used as pawns on the superpower chessboard.

BANGLADESH

Sheikh Hasina Warns Ershad Against 'Conspiracies'

BK201215 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 20 (AFP) — Bangladesh opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed criticised President Hussain Mohamad Ershad Wednesday for breaking his promise to restore civilian government and trying to perpetuate martial law rule. Sheikh Hasina warned the president at a news conference against "any new conspiracies that he may hatch up to delay the withdrawal of martial law in the country."

Sheikh Hasina is leader of both the Awami League and a 15-party alliance which has boycotted Parliament after capturing 101 out of 330 seats in a controversial election last May 7. The pro-government Jatiya Party wrested an absolute majority of 201 seats.

Despite the boycott, the Awami League and its allies are contesting eight by-elections to be held Tuesday in areas won by candidates who had successfully contested more than one seat. Under election rules, a candidate can contest up to five constituencies, but retain only one seat in Parliament.

The Awami League and opposition alliance were contesting the by-elections as a challenge to Mr. Ershad's "anti-people" government and to help restore democracy, Sheikh Hasina said. She parried a question about whether the opposition would ever take their seats in Parliament, saying Mr. Ershad should take immediate steps to lift martial law introduced when he seized power in a March 1982 bloodless coup. He did not have Parliament's consent when he dissolved the house and suspended the constitution upon taking power, she said, so it was his responsibility to withdraw martial law. "If martial law could be introduced through a proclamation, why can't it be withdrawn through the same proclamation?", she said.

Mr. Ershad has said it was the responsibility of the newly-elected Parliament to seek the ways and means for an early end to martial law, and he indicated it could be done only after Parliament had validated his years of military rule.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that government machinery, as well as favors and public money, were being abused in the by-election campaigns, and that "terror tactics and intimidations" were being applied to get Jatiya candidates elected.

Five members of the Jatiya Party and two from the Awami League each won in two constituencies during last May's election and subsequently vacated their extra seats for by-elections.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Put on 'Full Alert' 21 Aug

BK211423 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 21 (AFP) — Security forces were put on full alert Thursday and ordered to shoot back when fired upon, as the Ministry of National Security claimed an upsurge of Tamil separatist attacks in the past two weeks. A security spokesman said Tamils had opened fire almost every evening in the northern town of Thondamanaru following a major Hindu religious festival that ended last week. But he said security forces did not return the fire, fearing many civilians might be caught in the crossfire.

The ministry said security personnel had now been put on full alert and would be forced to retaliate in case of further attacks by Tamil guerrillas, who are fighting for an independent state in Sri Lanka. "Our men, while in their camps and on routine patrol, will defend themselves in the face of these deliberate and provocative attacks from the separatists," a high-ranking security spokesman added. According to Tamil sources, the guerrillas hid themselves in temporary trade stalls during the Hindu festival, then mingled with the large crowd and shot at the Army.

The security spokesman said a four-hour mortar attack Wednesday on the main army camp in Jaffna was part of a new Tamil strategy to hit security installations that lie inside heavily built-up civilian areas. In its statement, the Security Ministry said captured Tamils had revealed that they had been ordered to stage such attacks.

Also on Wednesday, the ministry said, separatists attacked the Kalkuda police station in eastern Batticaloa and later fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at the Pannai Army quarters in the north.

The ministry added that naval vessels engaged in troop movements at Point Pedro, 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Jaffna; were also attacked and several naval personnel hurt.

Government-TULF Talks To Continue

BK211507 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1444 GMT 21 Aug 86

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 21 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The fourth day of the second round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) ended tonight and the talks will continue tomorrow, Felix Dias Abeysinghe, secretary to the Political Parties Conference (PPC), told *Lanka Puwath*.

He said that today's talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

[Words indistinct] Sri Lanka was led by President Junius Jayewardene. Associated with him were Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, and Education Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe. The TULF was led by its secretary general, A. Amirthalingam. Associated with him were the other members of the TULF Politburo.

The talks were held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo.

Meanwhile, tomorrow the TULF delegation will hold a round of talks with Lands, Development, and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake in the morning and in the evening President Jayewardene will hold another round of talks with the TULF, Mr. Abeysinghe said.

India Urges Cooperation

BK220957 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0928 GMT 22 Aug 86

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 22 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The second round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) enters its fifth day today when Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene meets the TULF Politburo led by A.Amirthalingam at 1700.

This morning the TULF delegation had a round of talks with Lands, Development, and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake, Secretary to the Political Parties Conference Felix Dias Abeysinghe told *Lanka Puwath* today.

He said the talks will continue next Monday with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel on finance and a further round of talks with Minister Gamini Dissanayake on land settlement.

Meanwhile, a PTI report received by *Lanka Puwath* states that three key Indian ministers, Home Minister (interior) Buta Singh, External Affairs Minister P. Shiv Shankar and Minister for Personnel [title as received] P. Chidambaram met Sri Lankan terrorist leaders based in India at Madras yesterday, and urged them to adopt a positive approach so as to help the TULF reach a negotiated settlement with the Sri Lankan Government on the island's ethnic problem.

The PTI report further states the terrorist leaders have reportedly assured the central and state governments that they would not precipitate matters or stand in the way of the TULF.

Militants Agree to Informal Cease-Fire

BK220516 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups have agreed for an informal cease-fire. This was conveyed to the central leaders yesterday in Madras during their talks with the Tamil militants.

However, the Tamil militant groups told the central leaders that they will be on the defensive whenever they are attacked by the Sri Lankan Army. They have also said they were on the defensive so far. They asked the central leaders to convey to the Sri Lankan Government that they should not provoke the Tamil groups in the northern and eastern parts of the island.

As already reported, the three central ministers, Mr Buta Singh, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, and Mr P. Chidambaram had talks with the Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups in Madras yesterday. They had urged the Tamil leaders to exercise restrain and not to spoil the atmosphere while the talks are in progress in Colombo between the TULF and the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene.

One-Third of Budget Allocated for Defense

BK201329 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 86

[Text] The government has been compelled to allocate one-third of the total budget for the country's defense from the next financial year, but no room will be left for the division of the country. All steps will be taken to eliminate terrorism from this land.

This was stated by the Minister of Public Administration and Plantation Industry Major Montague Jayewickreme, when he attended a ceremony held at (Kamolgomuwa) in the Weligamuwa electorate. Maj Jayewickreme added that the government would not leave any room for any power to damage the good name of the government.

Oil Minister: USSR To Cut Oil Exports to West Europe

LD211647 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA — Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Thursday the Soviet Union has announced its readiness to cut its oil exports to Western Europe by 100,000 barrels per day.

Speaking upon his arrival here at the end of a four-day visit to the Soviet Union, Aqazadeh said that Soviet officials had stressed they were prepared to fully coordinate with OPEC members in the implementation of recent decisions of the organization.

He said that the Soviet Union will cut its oil exports in September and October, adding that Soviet officials had referred to the plot to lower oil prices as an "imperialistic move" and had announced their readiness to thwart it.

Aqazadeh said that Soviet Union's keeping pace with the recent OPEC decision to reduce oil production to 16 million barrels per day, would no doubt improve oil market situation.

He described talks between officials of the two countries on the export of Iran's natural gas through the Soviet Union as "positive and constructive." Experts of the two countries will study the possibility of suppling southern Soviet Union with Iran's gas and also its export to Western Europe through the existing pipeline, within the next three months.

He told reporters that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to exploit its gas and oil reserves in the Caspian Sea, adding that Soviet involvement in the field will be studied.

The oil minister said that in his "fruitful" talks with Soviet officials, especially its prime minister, political and economic relations were discussed in detail. Aqazadeh, heading a delegation of Oil Ministry and National Iranian Gas Company officials, left here for Moscow last Monday.

Aqazadeh Interviewed on Oil Prospects

OW191401 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 19 Aug 86

[Interview with Iranian Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh by Tehran correspondent Akehisa Hashimoto at Aqazadeh's office; date of interview not indicated — recorded; interview conducted in English and Persian with Japanese translation provided in subtitles; the following translation is from the Japanese version]

[Text] [Hashimoto] How do you forecast the current and future oil price trend?

[Aqazadeh] I think that oil prices are going up smoothly. This offers bright prospects for the next OPEC general meeting. I am taking an optimistic view of the future. I am planning to visit shortly the countries concerned so as to coordinate views between the OPEC member nations and non-OPEC countries. At present, there are no signs of noncooperation from any countries, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Kuwait has called for full implementation of the general meeting's decision. OPEC is thankful to Kuwait. In 1990 oil prices will make a sudden rise. Because of that, the Iranian oil and natural gas situation is expected to take a favorable turn. Our country is blessed with abundant oil, gas, and other natural resources. and we can use them as a means of investment. Furthermore, it will be possible for Iran to suply natural gas to other countries, in addition to oil.

[Hashimoto] The Iraqi forces attacked Sirri Island. Will these attacks not create obstacles to oil shipments? How is Iran going to solve this problem?

[Aqazadeh] Since Iran has a long coastline, it is possible to ship out oil safely. There is a plan to ship out oil from the Gulf of Oman by laying pipelines in areas other than the Persian Gulf. There also is a construction plan designed to ensure safe transport of oil in the Persian Gulf as well. It has been impossible for Iraq to stop our oil exports; that will also be impossible in the future. We will be able to ensure a stable supply of oil.

Group Claims Responsibility for Tehran, Qom Blasts

NC211636 Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek 21 Aug 86 p 37

[Text] Athens, 21 Aug — A clandestine Iranian organization calling itself "SYS" assumed responsibility yesterday for the two car bombings in Tehran and the holy city of Qom which killed more than 30 people.

An unidentified caller to the *Associated Press* bureau in Athens claimed responsibility on the group's behalf. The unidentified caller said that the attacks were intended to mobilize people against the Khomeyni regime.

The explosion in Tehran the day before yesterday killed 20 people and wounded dozens of others, while the attack on Qom last Saturday killed 13 and wounded more than 100 people.

Khamene'i Warns Gulf States in Friday Prayers

LD221226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] On the eve of the Happy Feast of Khom, the committed and religious people of Iran, today performed the Friday prayers, in unified ranks throughout the whole country with the slogan: We will fight, we will die, but we will not accept compromise.

According to our correspondents, the enthusiastic praying and God-seeking people of Tehran too, today, by being present in the meeting place where the Friday prayers were to be held, performed their prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the state.

The friday imam of Tehran noted the murmurs prevalent in the region and in the world on the question of peace with the Iraqi regime and said that in the imposed war experience the call for peace escalates whenever fear from the Islamic Revolution and victory of the combatants in the war grips the depth of our enemies' beings. When they have no fear and believe the brag-

gings of the Iraqi regime, then the cry for peace and advice cannot be heard.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added that when the question of the victory of the combatants in Al-Faw and the defeat of the Iraqi regime in Mehran or the waves of the Karbala' marchers' departing for the battlefronts are observed by foreign analysts and they predict that the future of the war lies in Iran's favor and to the detriment of Iraq, then the hue and cry for peace arises. They spread this in the form of advice, recommendations, and even by creating a climate of threat by propoganda means, and a delegation begins to travel around the world in order to heat up this issue all the more.

The president, by referring to the Iraqi attack against several vessels in the Sirri Island, then added that this oil episode too is related to the question of peace. The supporters of the Iraqi regime made this attack appear major in order to turn the attention of the officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran to an unjust peace with this aggressor regime.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed that the Iraqi regime and those who possess modern and advanced weapons have not yet been able to deliver the decisive blow. They will never be able to do so and in the face of these acts of impudence and insolence, we have both the facilities for a show of strength and the decision to carry it out, as proven so far. We have not left unanswered the insolence and impudence of Iraq which was being supported by some of the regional governments.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i reminded that our response thus far to Iraqi attacks on the jetties and oil tankers does not amount to the full use of our capacities. Were we to make use of all our capabilities and facilities in the face of the plots in the attacks against oil platforms and tankers, the whole export of oil in the Persian Gulf might then be jeopardized. The Islamic Republic of Iran has many facilities which has not yet made use.

Those who support the Iraqi regime and place facilities at the disoposal of this regime believing that in this way they will deliver blows to the Islamic Republic of Iran, must know that we will not let these facilities lie idle forever. When it becomes necessary, we will deliver more decisive blows against those without whom Iraq could not carry out these wicked deeds.

The president added that we are not seeking to blame anyone unduly and we also do not want to expand the war. If we wanted to expand the war this would have happned by now. It is the patience of the officials in the Islamic Republic which has prevented the war from expanding. We want that our relations with the Persian Gulf governments to be friendly, although we have information on what aid they are giving to Iraq.

Khamene'i Praises Citizens' Role in War Effort

LD220945 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, made a speech at a gathering of the citizens of Ramsar at the town's Esteqlal stadium yesterday. He stressed that the most fundamental and revolutionary thing today is to focus on the front and prepare for the decisive and destiny-making assault. The enemy should be hit with repeated hammer blows to deprive him of the chance to rise again.

Khamene'i stressed the need for constructive work in the country and said that our major effort today should be concentrated on preparing the front. An all-embracing great movement should be brought about with the utmost power to remove this main obstacle in the way of the revolution. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council underscored that the key solution to all our problems lies in bringing the war to a victorious end, only by destroying the Ba'th party and Saddam personally.

The president referred to the issue of peace with the Ba'th party and with Saddam, a peace after which the enemy would still remain in power, which would continue to pose a danger to the country's future and would once again divert all our resources away from constructive work. He described that kind of peace as contrary to the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. He asked how a country that constantly feels itself in danger from its neighbor can devote its efforts to constructive work.

Khamene'i referred to the plot to lower oil prices and said that despite the huge investment by the global arrogance to lower oil prices, this has benefited the Islamic Republic in a number of ways. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal aimed at raising oil prices — something which ran counter to the detailed policies of the enemies of the Islamic Republic — as a victory for the Iranian nation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council also described the victory of the combatants of Islam in the Al-Faw operations as something that heralded an enormous change in the regional policies. He added that despite their hostility to the Islamic Revolution, the world media today admit that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in a position of strength.

He then turned to recent remarks by Reagan's aide in Middle Eastern affairs. He said that even though the West tries not to weaken the morale of our enemies, God makes their tongue speak the truth when it is said that Iran's victory will be against America's interests. In conclusion, Khamene'i stressed that our victory in the imposed war is so close today that the U.S. Administration has been impelled to send its brokers to the region's reactionary shaykhs to find a way out.

According to a report, Khamene'i in a brief interview yesterday said that the people should participate in forming the strongest combat battalions possible. The president, speaking to correspondents in Ramsar, described the formation of the 500 combat battalions as the manifestation of the people's determination to end the war. He commended the part played by Mazandaran combat batallions in the Al-Faw operational theaters. Discussing the imposed war he said that the war is a fundamental matter not only for the people but also for the revolution. Until we have solved this problem we cannot properly turn to constructive work. So, in order to get down to constructive work in the country we have to win the war.

In conclusion, Khamene'i referred to the part played by the citizens of Mazandaran in the imposed war and said that, like the people throughout the country, the northerners have always taken the initiative in matters to do with the revolution.

Even now they are playing a major part in forming combat battalions.

The president returned to Tehran at 1800 last night.

IRNA Notes French Foreign Minster's Message

LD220904 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Paris, Aug. 22, IRNA — The French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond, in a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires to Paris, Gholam Reza Haddadi, Thursday night, delivered a written message to the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the 60-minute meeting which took place at the French Foreign Ministry building the latest developments in bilateral relations and its future trend were discussed.

Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Ali Reza Mo'yeri recently visited Paris and prior to that a special envoy of the French Government visited Tehran and held talks with the Iranian officials to settle financial disputes between the two countries.

The recent moves have had a positive and significant impact on deteriorated Irano-French relations. Relations between the two countries became cold when the French Government provided shelter to the Iranian terrorists, delayed repayment of a one billion dollar loan due to Iran, and gave all-out support to the Baghdad regime.

Musavi, Velayati Condemn Downing of Sudanese Plane

LD220840 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 22, *IRNA* — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in a message to Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, here Friday strongly condemned the recent downing of a Sudanese passenger plane by the insurgents of southern Sudan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran deplores such criminal acts which are against Muslims and Islam, he added. The prime minister also expressed sympathy with the Sudanese Government and nation.

Meanwhile the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a similar message to his Sudanese counterpart, Al-Sharid Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi at Sharif al-Hindi Friday, condemned the downing of the passenger plane.

Velayati stressed that such acts of cowardice, will not have the least effect on the will of the Sudanese nation who inspired by Islam are campaigning for their independence and territorial integrity.

Political Council Meets on Lebanese Situation

LD211353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at today's session of the cabinet's Political Council, which convened under the prime minister's chairmanship, the major reports and political developments relating to the current situation in Lebanon were reviewed. It was emphasized that the council opposes any agreement or resolution that concedes the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem, such as the UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Concerning training the country's future political cadres to serve in ministries and institutions concerned, the session decided that in cooperation with the Supreme Educational Revolution Council, the Ministry of Education and Higher Training, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, and the Ministry of Intelligence should draw up a plan.

Tehran Arabic on Upcoming 'Very Large-Scale' Battle

LD220827 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Aug 86

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] Brothers in Iraq. The eighth Karbala' battalion has now moved toward the battlefield frontlines within the framework of the large-scale mobilization for the coming battle which will have a decisive effect upon the course and result of the war. Here is a comment on this subject: [passage omitted]

The countdown for Saddam regime's defeat began some time ago, but the countdown has acquired a new momentum following the recent operations between Iraq and Iran. To enhance this course and to push the Baghdad regime into further collapse, a fresh future military action might be embarked upon which will be of a new type and on a very large scale that may decide the course and result of the war.

It is within this framework that the popular mobilization has been going on on a large scale and has been gaining momentum daily. In the field of human mobilization alone, convoys of volunteers have been pouring daily especially the Karbala' battalions of popular mobilization forces.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,570

LD211619 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21 *IRNA* — At least 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements, two trucks and some batteries destroyed in the western fronts Wednesday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire, said a military communique here Thursday.

Joint staff Communique Number 2570 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces founded Iraqi positions in parts of the southern

fronts Wednesday killing or wounding 20 Iraqi soldiers and destroying five enemy vehicles. Iraqi engineering operations were also halted.

Some Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Halaleh, Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, western fronts, incurred casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Over the same period, the communique said, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions and bases in Piranshahr, Marivan and Sardasht operational theaters inflicting substantial casualties and losses. Parts of enemy fortifications were also set ablaze.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Wednesday raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj 'Umran as a result of which two heavy Iraqi vehicles were demolished, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said, Iranian forces disrupted movement of Iraqi artillery units in areas overlooking Kani-Sheykh and checked reconnaissance flights of enemy helicoptrs in areas opposite Qasr-e Shirin and Khosravi.

31 Iraqi Casualties

LD211705 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 21, *IRNA* — At least 31 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and eight enemy bunkers, one loader and one 12.7 mm machine-gun destroyed in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts as a result of artillery duels with Iranian forces on Wednesday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued elsewhere in the western fronts especially in Sumar over the same period with Iranian forces holding the upper hand.

Abadan Civilians Martyred

LD211708 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 21, *IRNA* — Three Iranian civilians were martyred and some residential as well as business units damaged in Abadan, Khuzestan Province, when the city was heavily shelled by Iraqi forces on Wednesday.

Other reports reaching here said that an Iraqi armoured unit suffered considerable losses when it came under heavy Iranian artillery fire on Abu al-Khasib military road Wednesday.

The reports said that Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions in the Val-Fajr-eight operational theater (Al-Faw peninsula) over the same period destroying five enemy bunkers, two mortar emplacements and one observation post.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded in the Val-Fajr-eight operational theater, the reports said.

Over 150 Guards Killed in Baluchestan Province

TA211847 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Contrary to the regime's claim, Baluchestan's armed groups are not smugglers. They are preparing themselves for a general uprising to expel the regime's elements from this region. Recent armed clashes in Baluchestan have drawn the attention of and are the subject of discussion by international circles.

According to reliable reports, these clashes were far more extensive and intense than reported by the Islamic Republic's authorities. Clashes took place in Mirjaveh, (?Lari), (?Pishin), and a number of Eastern Taftan villages, and in them more than 150 guards were killed. In return, officials of the Islamic Republic executed over 30 armed Baluchis in Zahedan, Iranshahr, and Saravan.

The government of the mullahs claims that disorder in Baluchestan stems from measures by the Guards Corps to suppress groups of smugglers, but reports from impartial sources indicate that the main cause of the clashes is the local population's opposition to the Islamic Republic.

At present armed groups opposed to the Velayat-e Faqih rule have taken up positions in various parts of Baluchestan va Sistan Province, and are preparing themselves for a general uprising aimed at expelling representatives of the Islamic Republic's regime from this region.